

The missions of the 63rd Troop Command include maintenance, transportation, administration, Army aviation, and Airborne Ranger duties. One unit of the 63rd Troop Command is now serving in Iraq and—sadly—one of its servicemen was killed there last month.

Colonel Murray has had a remarkable career as both a civilian and an officer in her 22 years with the Army National Guard.

She joined the Guard when she was 17. At one time she juggled full-time duties as a neonatal intensive care nurse, full-time studies at the University of Detroit Law School, and her obligations to the military.

She is married to a fellow officer—LTC Martin Murray with the Michigan Army National Guard's State Area Command—and now outranks him.

But that is not a problem for this couple.

"My husband and I are truly in this as a team," Colonel Murray said recently. "Sometimes one has to step back for the other. He knows I wouldn't be here without him."

The Murray's have two children, and both hold demanding full-time careers. She works as a lawyer for the St. Joseph Health System, and he is an operations director of a 23-physician medical practice.

Our Nation is grateful to have such fine men and women willing to serve, and I am proud this couple hails from my home State.

Women have come a long way since 1778, when Mary Ludwig Hays—also known as Molly Pitcher—manned a cannon at the Battle of Monmouth in place of her wounded husband.

For her bravery, General George Washington made her a noncommissioned officer, and for the rest of her days she was known as Sergeant Molly.

Now, when the armed services are called to duty, almost 200,000 women from all branches of the armed services stand ready to defend their Nation—women like Colonel Murray.

I salute their bravery and their sense of duty as I do all who choose to wear our Nation's uniform with pride.●

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERIN M. MCCARTER

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of LTC Erin M. McCarter. She has served her country in the Air Force for more than 20 years and will be retiring in June.

Colonel McCarter grew up in Moline, IL, and was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1982. She has served in various logistics assignments during her time in the Air Force. She was the officer accountable for nuclear munitions at Ellsworth AFB, SD; she served as wing supply and headquarters staff officer at Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Bases in Germany and Shaw AFB, SC. In addition, she served as Chief of the Pa-

cific Air Force's weapon system support at Hickam AFB, HI. From 1996–1997, Colonel McCarter commanded the 8th Supply Squadron at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of South Korea. She also served as Congressional Liaison to Capitol Hill. Colonel McCarter assumed her duties managing foreign military sales to the Royal Saudi Air Force in September 1999.

Colonel McCarter plans to return to her home State of Illinois upon her retirement. I know my fellow Senators will join me in thanking LTC Erin McCarter for her distinguished service to her country and wish her well in her future endeavors.●

IN APPRECIATION OF SISTER AUGUSTA JOHNSON

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my appreciation for Sister Augusta Johnson's many years of dedicated service to the Benedictine Sisters of the Mother of God Monastery in Watertown, SD. Sister Johnson has recently announced she will be retiring after 30 years in a leadership position at Prairie Lakes Healthcare System.

Sister Johnson currently serves as vice president of administrative services but began her career as the office manager at St. Ann's Hospital before it became Prairie Lakes Hospital. During her notable career, she has also served as the controller and chief financial officer of St. Ann's. When the organization was merged with Memorial Medical Center to form Prairie Lakes Healthcare System in 1986, Sister Johnson was named interim administrator. During this time, she was responsible for bringing a home-based health care program called Home Connections to Prairie Lakes. Prior to her entrance into the health care industry, Sister Johnson spent time as an elementary school teacher and principal in five South Dakota communities.

As vice president of administrative services for Prairie Lakes, Sister Johnson serves as the administrator for Prairie Lakes Care Center, the vice president overseeing the Lab, Radiology and Environmental Services Departments, and Prairie Lakes Cancer Center. Over her career with Prairie Lakes, she has been the organization's representative for four major construction projects, including the current \$11 Million dollar Prairie Lakes Medical Office Building and hospital expansion plan.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in education from Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD, Sister Johnson obtained a master's degree in administration from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. She went on to earn a certificate in hospital administration from St. Louis University before returning to South Dakota.

In addition to her countless obligations to Prairie Lakes Hospital, Sister Johnson is one of South Dakota's two delegates to the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

and has served on that organization's board of directors. In addition, she is a member of Sioux Valley's long-term care finance task force and serves on the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations Long Term Care Council.

I commend Sister Johnson for her selfless commitment to the service of others and thank her for all of the work she has done for her community, her State, and her Nation. Her efforts have truly made a difference in countless numbers of lives of people she has never even met. I extend my very best wishes to her upon her retirement and predict that she will find peace and fulfillment in whatever lies ahead.●

HONORING MISS KACEY REYNOLDS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I have the privilege and honor of rising today to recognize Miss Kacey Reynolds of Calvert City, KY. Kacey was selected as first place district winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Ladies Auxiliary's Voice of Democracy National Essay Competition Program.

Kacey's essay submission detailing her commitment and responsibility to America caught the eye of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. Along with a college scholarship, the national scholarship recipients were rewarded with a trip to Washington, DC.

Currently participating in Paducah Christian Homeschool, Kacey was recognized earlier this year as a Focus on the Family 2003 Brio Girl of the Year finalist and is a member of the National Honor Society. Outside of academics, she is an active teen who enjoys acting, rappelling, scrapbooking, and horseback riding. She hopes to study music and business management when she attends college.

I am pleased that Kacey takes such pride in her community and Nation. She recognizes the sacrifices made by others in order to secure her freedom. Respect and appreciation, as shown by Kacey, can sometimes get pushed to the side during the daily routines of life. I am pleased this young lady has taken time to reflect on the meaning of freedom and the price of it. Please join me in congratulating Miss Kacey Reynolds and wishing her the best of luck.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF INDIA

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the anniversary of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church of India for 25 years of dedication and service to my home State of Michigan and specifically the Southfield and metropolitan Detroit communities.

St. Thomas Orthodox Church was the first Indian church established in Southfield, MI. In addition to being a source of spiritual guidance, the church also celebrates and preserves Indian culture and heritage in the